

STATE AUTOMATED REPORTING SYSTEM (STARS)

CLOSEOUT PROJECT REPORT PRESENTED TO The Legislative Information Technology Committee March 26, 2008

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and the members of the committee. I am David Massey, Assistant Superintendent with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here today to share with you the status of the STARS project which the Department completed last fall.

You may know that the Department had an on line reporting system for a number of years. The ORS system was used to collect all the data from schools for reporting purposes. Several years ago it was realized that ORS was out dated and in need of being up-dated. Thus the new system, now referred to as STARS was created. A full post- implementation project report was prepared and submitted to ITD. Therefore, I will be brief in my remarks and share the highlights of the project.

I am happy to report that the re-write of ORS to .net (STARS) has successfully met the priorities of building a sound foundation that would be supported for many years. The design and the development environment of the new system provide(s) cost effective maintenance and a consistent interface for end users (schools) leading to less confusion and time savings.

Many federal program requirements change yearly and require modifications to be made in a short period of time. The new environment provides DPI ability to respond to these changes and still maintain consistency with the application. The following highlights the system's improvements.

- Due to the re-write of the system several DPI program units are now able to collect the data via this system, allowing readily sharing of the data with others.
- The schools have been provided a more user friendly environment. The security is more robust and the schools have more control of their own user access. Some schools have expanded the use of STARS to their teachers for some reporting requirements which reduces the collection burden.
- The introduction of more validation errors and warnings has led to an improved process that communicates with districts before final data submission. This has resulted in cleaner data and has further provided time savings for the schools.
- We continue to receive positive and constructive feed back from schools to further improve the system. We will continue to build a better system as we get more feed back from schools.
- Additionally this system has provided an environment that will allow other agencies, such as ESPB and CTE to cooperate with us in consolidating their systems with the STARS thus reducing duplication and providing more opportunities for sharing of information within agencies.

- We anticipate that the new STARS database will be more comprehensive and will provide bases for launching a Statewide Longitudinal Data Warehouse and other applications.

We have received very positive comments from the schools as well as the Data Advisory Committee members regarding the new system which was used last fall to collect data from all schools.

I have already outlined above the many pluses of the new system. We will continue to work with other agencies and the schools to further enhance the system that will provide better and cleaner data, less duplication and (will be) more user friendly.

Lastly, I should add that the project was completed on time and was completed under the projected costs.